

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY GRANT
FY 2006-07 DIRECT SERVICE GRANT
SERVICES FOR THE DISADVANTAGED
GRANT PURPOSE AND CRITERIA**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday March 10, 2006

Basic Requirements for Grant Applications:

1. Any public library recognized by the Tennessee State Library and Archives as being in compliance with TCA, Title 10, Chapter 3 may apply.
2. Public library seeking grant must submit a completed grant proposal postmarked no later than March 10th, 2006.
3. Public library seeking grant must be able to contract with the State of Tennessee and administer funds independently.
4. Grant funding must not result in a decrease in local appropriations for the applicant library.
5. No grant will be funded for less than \$5,000.
6. Project coordinator will be required to provide detailed quarterly narrative and financial reports, plus final report.
7. Two signed assurance forms are mandatory:
 - a. Assurance that library is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (if any equipment and/or software providing Internet access is purchased with LSTA grant funds).
 - b. Assurance that public library receiving Regional Library Services has met Maintenance of Effort requirements and submitted signed Public Library Service Agreement.

Grant Review

Direct service grant proposals are reviewed by members of the Tennessee Advisory Council on Libraries (TACL), members of the professional staff of Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) and other library advocates. Each proposal is judged by three individuals and given points as indicated on the Grant Proposal Application. The Tennessee State Library and Archives reserves the right to deny funding to any library with a prior history of mismanagement of LSTA funds or for failure to complete all requirements of the grant application process.

Types of Available Grants

A. Adult Education and Workforce Development Support Services Grants

Purpose of Grant Projects: Adult low-skill reading ability is a burgeoning yet often hidden problem which affects the estimated 25% of the population of Tennessee who have never received a high school diploma. Grants in this category are used to help build literacy skills, which can be defined as “an individual’s ability to read, write and speak English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one’s goal and develop one’s knowledge and potential.”

Criteria for Grant Projects: Proposals submitted in this category should emphasize the cooperative, collaborative nature of the task by working with other community agencies such as workforce development agencies, literacy and Adult Basic Education programs, English-as-a-Second language instructors, volunteer groups, adult education councils, and academic institutions. Libraries can use a variety of innovative approaches to assist in reducing the educational barriers of those who have low literacy skills and who are economically disadvantaged

Examples of Projects That Might Be Funded: Working cooperatively with local education programs to provide the development of career centers, providing space for tutoring and career counseling in the library, library workshops for tutors/students, core collections of print and non-print materials, computer assisted instruction, and publicity and public awareness campaigns.

B. Family Literacy Support Services

Purpose of Grant Projects: Currently, in Tennessee, an estimated 22% of children live below the poverty level and 11% of them live in extreme poverty. In 1996 in Tennessee, 53% of all adults had literacy skills at National Adult Literacy Study Level 1 or 2 (*Synthetic Estimates of Literacy*, 1996). Teen drop-out rate is currently 13% according to 2002 *Kids Count*. The primary purpose of family literacy projects is to break the intergenerational cycle of under-education and poverty by teaching good parental skills and attitudes toward education, developing children’s reading skills, and improving the overall quality of parent-child relationships.

Criteria for Grant Projects: Proposals submitted in this grant category must address providing library services, programs, and materials in collaboration with other community based agencies which provide care

or services for children. Examples of appropriate partners include schools, social services agencies, or family assistance agencies. Proposals must include evidence that the materials, program or services to be provided will target families in poverty.

Examples of Projects That Might Be Funded: Family literacy programming that involves participation by both parent(s) and child(ren); collections of materials and/or programming in Head Start or Even Start centers and licensed day care centers serving children from disadvantaged families; collections of materials and/or programs in residential housing projects; programs planned in conjunction with the Tennessee *Families First* Initiative, *Head Start* or *Even Start Family Literacy* programs; collections of teaching and learning kits to be used by any of the targeted audience. Projects that result in improved English language reading, writing and math skills, or improved communications between any English/non-English learners are worthwhile and will also be considered.

C. Services for the Elderly

Purpose of Grant Projects: Libraries have served the elderly for many years with large-print materials, non-print materials, and outreach services for the elderly. Special needs are rarely met adequately and library services many times go unnoticed and unused by an aging population. Services and materials that are appropriate to the elderly become critical as the elderly population increases.

Criteria for Grant Projects: Proposals submitted in this category should address providing service to the elderly at the local level, emphasizing interagency cooperative projects. The library, in an effort to help the work of another community agency or agencies, should consider 1) cooperative resources, 2) partnerships with existing agencies and 3) public awareness campaigns. Potential partnerships include Community Action agencies, the Area Office on Aging, meals-on-wheels groups, human resources agencies, or other agencies whose efforts are directly designed for the elderly. Each project must include at least one special program designed for a senior audience co-sponsored by the library and an appropriate community agency/agencies.

Examples of Projects That Might Be Funded: Large print collection development, either general in nature or specific genre; purchasing assistive devices to make use of the library easier for senior citizens; computer classes designed especially for seniors.

D. Services for the Disabled

Purpose of Grant Projects: Residents with mental or physical disabilities have a critical need for all types of information, particularly self-help and coping information. The purpose of these grants is to enable the disabled to use public library resources, both print and non-print, to find information on legal, medical, child-rearing, home repair, nutrition, and other topics.

Criteria for Grant Projects: Proposals submitted in this category should address providing special library services and programming to disabled citizens. The use of the grant funds requires at least one special library program co-sponsored with an area agency serving the needs of the disabled.

Examples of Projects That Might Be Funded: Collection development of materials in special formats such as large print; library assistive technology devices for the visually or physically impaired; sign language classes sponsored by the library; creation of a tutor volunteer program.